

**STATE OF VERMONT**

**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Joint Petition of Green Mountain Power Corporation,	)	
Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc., Vermont Electric	)	April 2, 2011
Power Company, Inc., and Vermont Transco LLC,	)	
for a Certificate of Public Good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A.	)	Docket No. 7628
Section 248, for authority to construct up to a 63 MW	)	
wind electric generation facility and associated facilities	)	
on Lowell Mountain in Lowell, Vermont, and the	)	
installation or upgrade of approximately 16.9 miles of	)	
transmission line and associated substations in Lowell,	)	
Westfield and Jay, Vermont.	)	

**REPLY BRIEF OF THE NELSONS**

At this point we feel there is nothing more that can be said. You all know our position, and because of our location in regards to the Lowell Mountain Utility Project, our property would be completely dominated by it. The fact that we have 600 acres with 1 ½ miles abutting it with a full view of the whole project from most of our property is devastating. The fact that 18 more turbines are proposed at the southern end of that in Eden, see Docket # 7560, is even worse. Mr. Raphael himself admitted the height of the turbines is nearly one half of the mountain. How can they possibly not have an undue adverse effect on us?

Green Mountain Power, et al. knows what this project would do to such a large area of the Northeast Kingdom as evidenced by the fact they were willing to loan Vermont Land Trust \$300,000 to get us out and Mr. Wileman was willing to pay \$250,000 to the potential new owner for a right-of-way to access his land from the east

side of the mountain and to stop the new owners from having the ability to complain about the project in the future.

The issue of our home facing east 'so it doesn't matter what we look at to the west' is absurd. Our picture windows are facing west (as do most of our neighbors' picture windows and other people throughout the towns of Albany and Craftsbury). On cross-examination, Mr. Raphael was forced to admit that we have picture windows facing the Lowells. This is because of the spectacular view of the Lowell Mountains and the amazing sunsets.

Although we were never allowed to speak our feelings and observations on the many issues that were presented on behalf of Green Mountain Power - and their parent companies- by their experts and through the pressures on state agencies, we tried to follow the schedule as directed. We missed some of the deadlines, once because our barn was burned and once because of the GMP/VLT attempted buyout.

We don't feel the site visits were sufficient because there never was a visit to the proposed construction site of the project. If the Board will go to this site, it would speak volumes on the catastrophe of this project. Just seeing this place would be enough for this whole boondoggle to be over with. EVERYTHING WITHIN THAT VIEWSHED will have an unobstructed view of a massive industrial power plant whether they think it is graceful or degrading to the natural surroundings.

There will be an effect on tourism in the area. Our property quietly brings tourists to the Northeast Kingdom area because of the Bayley Hazen Road, Catamount Trail, VAST trails, etc. The Bayley Hazen Road and the Catamount Trail go directly in front of

our home, and the VAST trail follows along a little over a mile of the base of the mountain on our property. These are used by hikers, bikers, skiers, snowmobilers, jeep clubs, horseback riders, leaf peepers, picnickers, for weddings, receptions not to mention hunters for all the different hunting seasons. Sterling College has used this as the “class room” for their winter survival class for over 30 years.

We have allowed anyone and everyone to use our property for their pleasure. This project **should** be about property rights – not just the property rights of one person because it affects the property rights of neighbors and what they can or cannot continue to do on their property. Vermont Land Trust has shown that the project will have an effect by appraising our property for agricultural use only (instead of highest and best use) saying they did so as if the power plant were there. GMP’s statements in their brief scoffing at our claims regarding our property line also don’t make any sense. (See GMP Proposed Decision p.11). We have raised this issue with the Board because we think the Board needs to be aware of it. We will file our claims in the proper place. Never has GMP asked us about this or given the Board any details showing verified property lines; their own witness, Mr. Jewkes, would not even verify the accuracy of the boundary. (Testimony Feb.3 p.229). Wouldn’t a developer want to make sure the lines on their leased land were right rather than belittling those who are questioning it?

We have said all these things over and over and referenced them on our replies, testimonies and letters.

We feel this project should be denied a CPG because the profile and views are about all we have in the Northeast Kingdom. The few jobs it will provide in the future

and the small amount of power that may be generated will never replace what this whole area will lose. All of the habitats and wetlands that are proposed to be destroyed can never be fairly mitigated. Many plants and animals live where they are because that is the only acceptable and appropriate environment for them.

Green Mountain Power has failed to give the Board enough information to meet the statute. Throughout this whole process it has marginalized us and minimized the extensive impacts to people, place, and wildlife. We are asking you to demand more.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donald Nelson

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Shirley Nelson